GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4133
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
EXPORT OF HERBS
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether plants/herbs and its derivatives are allowed to be taken or exported to other countries with the permission of the Central Government only;

(b) whether some collection of herbarium seized from Japanese tourist by the Government of Sikkim under intervention from the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether rare plant seeds from North and West Sikkim Reserve Forest were collected by foreigners during 2003 and has now advertised in website in Europe for sale of the same;

(e) if so, the details therof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) The Foreign Trade Policy permits export of Plants, Plant Portions their derivatives and extracts subject to conditions. Export of certain species notably those falling under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora is prohibited. Exemption from this provision can be granted by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on the recommendations of Ministry of Environment & Forests for export of such species, for the purpose of research, education and life saving drugs.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) The State Government of Sikkim has informed that a resident of Sidlistni in Czech Republic had claimed to have collected wild flower seeds of eighty four species of alpine flowers from North and West Sikkim during 2003 and advertised through website for sale to garden growers during October 2004. The State Government has taken appropriate action in the matter and is also in the process of taking legal action in the court of law in the State.